

An Entry on Observations and Influential Experiences

Respected and Revered Hazrat Moulana Yousuf Moonia Sahib and The Beloved and Esteemed Maulana Muhsin Sahib:

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

May Allah bless you in your virtuous efforts and accept your striving in both the worlds. I hope that I find you all in times of peace and prosperity.

During the April Holidays, between April 3rd and April 10th, I had the great fortune of spending approximately one week in some tarnished areas of Nepal. In the five days of our stay in that area, we were able to visit approximately ten Maktabas. We also had the opportunity to attend a program by students of 24 different Maktabas on Friday morning.

After visiting the Maktabas, and by attending their programs, we can say with firm conviction that all your hard work and exertion is bearing fruit and is not going to waste. الحمد لله, in a short period of time, significant amounts of improvements have been made in the educational upbringing of students and as their teachers continue their effort, we will see bright results in the foreseeable future. There is no doubt in the genuine and honest effort which is being made by these teachers, therefore they are also more than deserving of congratulations. For merely just their staying in such harsh conditions is a great blessing; or else people like us cannot even perceive living in such an environment. May Allah bless you both as well as Mufti Farooq Sahib for directing your concerns towards this community at a time when it needs it most. I consider the formation of the Maktab system as a vital action which was necessary in this vicinity for if this system had not been formed, there was a great chance of- (May Allah save us all-) people leaving the folds and Mercy of Islam.

May Allah Bestow us with the opportunity and ability to remain steadfast and devout upon this mission.

Alhumdulillah, complete advantage of the five day stay was taken to the extent that not even a few minutes were wasted, and everything was noted and observed in depth with much detail and honesty.

- 5) During the journey, there was a sad sight which greatly affected us, to the extent that the sadness of this sight expressed itself in the shape of tears upon our faces. The sad sight was the state of the Masaajid and the distress of their imams. The Masaajid of these area embody a verse from the poetry of Allama Iqbal:

“The Masaajid are mourning; due to its being empty of worshippers”

The Masaajid in Nepal are in a deplorable condition that it must be seen to believe it. Allah makes mention in the Quran, "فِي بَيْتِ اِذْنِ اللّٰهِ اِنْ تَرْفَعِ" The commentators of the Quran have regarded this ayah to physically as well as spiritually raise the Houses of Allah. It is sad to say that here in Nepal the Masaajid are void of both these blessings. It is our humble appeal that we turn our much needed attention towards this situation.

I am well aware that this is not the responsibility of a single person, but the entire nation and Ummah is responsible for this task. I am writing this with the hope that the longing and yearning in my heart may echo to others and reach them as well. Actually I would request you to notify those who are responsible at the Jamiat-Ulema Transvaal about the current condition of these areas. The Muslims here should be notified as well, for we are blessed with having a Masjid every few metres, while in Nepal community after community is deprived of this blessing.

This topic should be discussed further because the Imams are also living under difficult circumstances. There is a need to unite all the Imams of all the various Masaajid under one body. There should be arrangements for their monthly salary, and at least twice a year, the teachers and Imams should gather and exchange their opinions in various religious matters. Some advice should be given from our side and most of the time should be spent listening to their concerns and comments. Hopefully if effort is made in this manner for a few years, a blossoming future will be seen.

“Oh farmer! The land is fertile! ; only a little effort is needed”

- 6) At least twice a year, arrangements should be made to provide the students with two pairs of clothing. This task can be accomplished by means of Zakat (charity funds). And under the system of Maktabas, a uniform befitting this situation should also be discussed. This is vital for changing and forming a learning environment. The students of Maktabas are often impressed and affected by the seemingly sophisticated and organized school system,

The Second Program of the Masjids Inauguration:

After the Maghrib Salah the second gathering of the Masjid commenced. This program included talks by four of the prominent and noble scholars of the area. At 9:00pm sharp, Mufti Mohammad Ali Sahib addressed the people in a comprehensive and complete manner. Mufti Mohammad Ali Sahib spoke upon the importance Tabligh, and the vital connection which is needed between the scholars and the Muslim community, and thus pointed out some very important and beneficial pearls of advice. After Hazrat Mufti Mohammad Ali Sahib spoke, this servant was requested to speak even though much time had elapsed. I found it to be my good fortune, and a talk upon the importance of Masaajid was given. The Isha Salah soon followed after the talk, the Athan being at 11:00pm and the Salah being performed at 11:15pm. After the Salah supper was served, and the crowd dispersed at around 12:00am. By the time we laid down, it was around 1:00am. الحمد لله على ذلك

Around 1,000 people attended the Masjids inauguration and the program was extremely successful.

The Third Program at the Masjids Inauguration:

On the day Friday, April the 18th, after the Fajr Salah, Mufti Mohammad Ali gave a 30 minute talk on Dars-e-Quran. Then the gathering concluded with Ishraq, dhikr etc., and was followed by breakfast.

The Fourth and Final Program of the Masjids Inauguration:

Due to staying up late the previous night, and continuous traveling, fatigue got the better of us and we rested after breakfast. A program was taking place at 9:00am and this servant was requested to take part.

The program was for the students of the various Maktabas which took place between 9 and 11am and was an enormous success. It was clear to us that these children are being raised through the blood and sweat of their teachers. May Allah through his infinite Mercy accept all of their efforts and grant them further success. Ameen

After the program given by the students of the various Maktabas, I was requested to speak on the importance of the Quran and the importance of Maktabas. Last night, I did not get a chance to speak in detail, therefore I took this opportunity to elaborate my thoughts in detail. Thereafter Mufti Mohammad Ali Sahib was requested to speak and he mentioned some important points from the tafseer of Suratul Asr. The azaan for Jumuah Salah took place at 1:30pm, and the Khutbah commenced at 1:45 pm. The salat was followed by a nikah, and at 2:30pm food was arranged. After the meal, we met the teachers and bade farewell. At 5:00pm we embarked on our journey towards Kathmandu. Mufti Farooq Nepali, the

- 4) Finally I would like to thank Maulana Mohsin Sabir Sahib (Imam and Khatib of Jami Masjid Mayfair) who was the one who made this journey possible. May Allah the Beneficent accept us All for the service of his religion till our last breath.
- 5) Alhumdulillah the entire journey was under the guidance and supervision of Mufti Muhammad Ali Sahib. All plans and programs were decided and beautifully carried out under his opinion and leadership. May Allah reward him in both the worlds.
- 6) Madrasatus Suffah as well as the organizer of Tanzim-e-Makatib, Maulana Abul Hasan Sahib have indebted us all. We owe them much thanks, because there is no doubt that he has been working day and night to improve the madrasa systems so that they may bear the fruits that we see today.

Withstanding all the hardships and all the severe conditions, he has not left any room for shortcoming in fulfilling his responsibilities with honesty and sincerity.

Therefore, I pray that Allah gives him a blessed and comfortable long life, and I pray that Allah increases his sincerity and gives him the strength to continue his work with steadfastness. (والحمد لله أولاً وآخراً. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته)

Mufti Muhammad Ali (Senior Ustad of Hadith and Fiqh Darul Uloom Zakariyya)

Moulana Abbas bin Adam (Senior Ustad of Hadith and Adab Darul Uloom Zakariyya)